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AN EXHORTATION TO YOUTH,

And Others, to follow:

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Part of a LETTER from *T. C.* to a Friend in *DUBLIN*;

AND

Since desired to be Printed for Publick Benefit.

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Printed and Sold by J. Sowle, in *White-Hart-Court* in *Gracious-street*, 1709.

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An EXHORTATION *to* Youth, *and Others, to follow.*

LET the Young Man and Maiden diligently Read the Holy Scripture; and when ever they come to a Paſſage that affects them, let them not only Turn down that Leaf, but let them be ſure that it hath place in their Hearts: And when they Read of a Good Man or Woman, then let them earneſtly Pray and fervently Cry to the Lord, the Great God, and Holy Father of our dear Lord Jeſus Chriſt, and all the Righteous in all Ages, that he would pleaſe to make them like to thoſe his Dear Children and Servants. Oh! that all Young People might not forget this great Command of God, *Honour thy Parents, that thy Days may be long upon the Land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.* Exod. 20. 1

How many ſtubborn Youths hath the Lord cut off in their prime, and in the flower of their Days: And, on the other hand, how hath the Great Almighty bleſs'd, proſper'd, preſerv'd and honour'd thoſe that have been Obedient to their Parents, and honour'd their Parents and Elders? And let the Young Men and Maidens note this, That none truly Honours their Parents and Elders, but thoſe who are Pious and Vertuous; ſuch were *Joſeph*, *Samuel*, *David* and *Solomon*; as alſo King *Joſiah*, who began to Reign at Eight Years old. God Almighty gives many a

good Senſe of his Grace at that Age, and thereabouts; he Ordaineth Praiſe many times out of the Mouths of Babes and Sucklings. Let the Youth endeavour to follow thoſe Good and Great Men; and for their Inſtruction, I ſhall give a Touch of the above Five Worthies.

Firſt, In particular beginning with *Joſeph*. His Father ſent him to his Brethren; he went willingly (tho' his Brethren hated him;) and when it was in his power to hurt them, he rendred them Good for their Evil; a good Example for both Young and Old.—— And when tempted to Sin by his Miſtriſs in *Egypt*, he ſaid, *How can I do this great Wickedneſs, and ſin againſt God?* Who highly favoured him for his Piety, Vertue and Chaſtity.

Gen. 37.

Gen. 44. 7. 45. 15.

Chap. 39. 9.

Secondly, *Samuel*, for whom his Mother prayed Earneſtly to the Lord; and when He had given him to her, ſhe gave him to God again; A good Pattern for all Mothers. When he was but a little Lad, the Almighty called him, and he thought it had been *Ely*; up he gets, and ſaid, *Thou called'ſt me? No*, ſaid the Old Man, *I did not call thee, lie down again.* He did not grumble, as many of our Youths do: The Lord called again; he willingly runs to *Ely*; he did not love his Bed ſo much as Obedience, and ſaid, *Thou didſt call me. Ely* Obſerving that God had ſpoke to the Child, ſaid to him when he calleth again, ſay, *Speak, Lord, for thy Servant heareth.* Let Old ones mind this, and encourage their Youth to anſwer the Call of God betimes. So God calls again, and he anſwers: *Speak, Lord, for thy Servant heareth.* The Lord by his Grace calls to Little Ones, many times in the midſt of their play,

1 Sam. 1. 10.

Chap. 3. ver. 5, &c.

play, and ſometimes in their Beds: Oh! that our Youth may do and ſay as Little *Samuel*; that they may grow as he did, and be in favour both with God and Man.

Thirdly, *David*, his Father's youngeſt Son, kept his Sheep, and in that innocent Imploy the Lord was with him, to admiration; his Father ſent him to his Brethren: But *Eliab*, his eldeſt Brother, frown'd upon him, and reviled him; he only made this ſoft Reply, *Is there not a Cauſe?* He overcame the Great Philiſtine, in the Name of the God of *Iſrael*; and God highly Exalted him for his Uprightneſs, Sincerity and Piety, which was very great: For notwithſtanding *Saul* would have kill'd him; yet when *David* had him in his power, he ſpared him; inſomuch that *Saul* wept, and ſaid, *If a Man find his Enemy, will he let him go?* And there was loving Greeting between them: So he overcame the Evil of *Saul*'s Heart, by the Good that was in his; according to thoſe Holy Expreſſions of the Apoſtle *Paul*, Rom. 12. 21. *Be not overcome of Evil, but overcome Evil with Good.* Words worthy to be writ in Letters of Gold, and more worthy to be obſerved and practiſed.

1 Sam. 1 ver. 11, 17, 28, &

1 Sam. 2 ver. 9, 10, & ver. 19

Fourthly, *Solomon*, who asked of God Wiſdom, being in his own Eyes but as a little Child, ſaid unto the Lord, *Give unto thy Servant an underſtanding Heart*: Which Requeſt God granted him, and gave him alſo Riches and Honour. Oh! ſee the Benefit of pleaſing God, Young Men and Young Women.

1 King. 3. 7

Fifthly, *Joſiah*, a Young Prince, and King: How Zealous was he for God's Service and Worſhip! What a won-

ngs 22. ,2,3,&c. ron. 35. 25.

a wonderful Reformation he made in the Land! and how was he lamented at his Death, as generally all good Zealous Men and Women are, either Old or Young.

Having touched but a little of the Young Men, let me juſt a little remember the Young Women alſo; as for Example, *Ruth* and *Abigail*, two diſcreet young Women: The firſt very loving, kind, and true to *Naomi*, her Mother-in-law; a good Pattern for all Daughters-in-law: *Intreat me not*, ſaid ſhe, *to leave thee; for where thou goeſt, I will go; and where thou lodgeſt, I will lodge; and where thou dyeſt, there will I be buried; Thy People ſhall be my People, and thy God my God.* The Lord abundantly rewarded her for this Godly Reſolution. *Boaz* had a Senſe of her Vertue and Piety, and ſaid, *All the City of my People doth know that thou art a Vertuous Woman.* Which doubtleſs was a ſtrong Motive for him to love her; and that Love commonly laſts till Death: Whereas, when Money is a Motive, it often happens that many Evils attend.

h 1. ver. 17. chap. er. 11.

Alſo Wiſe *Abigail*, her ingenious Speech to *David*, and Contrivance to hinder him from ſhedding Blood; which he was coming to do (thinking he had Cauſe) but prevented by her Wiſdom: Which, to be ſure, was a great Motive to him to love her, after *Nabal*'s Death, and to take her to Wife; ſhe was no proud Woman: *For*, ſaid ſhe, *let thy Handmaid ſerve to waſh the feet of the Servants of my Lord.* Much might be ſaid, but I deſign brevity.

Sam. 25. 23, 24, &c.

As there are many good Examples in Holy Scripture, whereby Young people might be ſtirred up to Vertue; ſo alſo there are Examples of the Judgments of God on diſobedient, impious, vain and ungodly Men and Women, even Young and Old. Oh! let our Youth conſider (I beſeech them) Wicked, diſobedient *Abſalom*, and

am. 15. 10, &c.

and poor *Dinah*: Alſo the Prince and the *Moabitiſh* Damſel, whom Zealous *Phineas* ſlew; for God was angry, and is angry with the Wicked every Day. Gen. 34. Numb. 2

The before-mentioned Good Men and Women were in the Time of the Law; but let me mention ſome in the Time of the Goſpel.

I'll begin with our great Lord and bleſſed Maſter, our holy Pattern and good Example; who, *becauſe he loved Truth, and hateth Iniquity, therefore he was highly exalted and anointed above his fellows: He had the Heathen given him for his Inheritance, and the utmoſt parts of the Earth for his Poſſeſſion:* and what is more, *all Power in Heaven and Earth.* Pſalm 45 Pſalm 2. Matth. 28

Oh, dear Young Men and Maidens! here is our great Pattern which we are (and ought) to take for our Example; walking in all Humility and Reverence: *He* (ſaith Chriſt) *that will be my Diſciple* (that is, his Scholar) *muſt take up his Croſs, deny himſelf, and follow me.* Oh bleſſed Pattern! Oh glorious Example! let's follow him whilſt we have breath in this World; it was always well for them that followed him. What think ye, Oh Young Men and Maidens! had it not been well for that Rich young Man, that he had left all, and followed Dear *Jeſus:* Be ye your own Judges; Look on your Pattern (*i. e.* Chriſt Jeſus) when he was but Twelve years Old; ſee what he was doing; forget not that Saying which his Mother laid up in her Heart, *Wiſt ye not that I muſt be about my Father's buſineſs?* Oh, dear Youths! it's good Buſineſs, I can ſay it through ſome good Experience; let me tell you for your Edification; I have ſerv'd my Maſter, Holy *Jeſus*, and follow'd him ſeveral Years according to the beſt of my Underſtanding, and I have always found him a good Maſter; his Service is ſweet, and his Work is delightful. Luke 9. 14. 27. Mark 10. 22, Luke 2. 49

ful. I have a great deal more to say for my Lord and Master, but my design is brevity: *His Yoke is easie, and Burden is light.* He hath said it, and I have experienced it. Wherefore I am the more free to invite you to follow him, and be his Scholars. An Eminent Servant and Scholar of his said, *Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.* The Apostle *Paul* exhorts *Timothy*, a young Scholar and his Son, in the Faith, to be a good Example to others; as also his Son *Titus*. We are also told of Four young Women who were Propheteſſes, and divers others; a more particular Account of whose Exemplary Lives and Actions are Recorded in Holy Scripture for our Learning; unto which, with the Grace of God in the Heart, I recommend all Young Men and Women, and conclude these small Tokens of my very dear Love in Christ, our Holy Lord and Master, as so many Patterns for them to follow.

Tho. Chalkley.

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